

Regardless of the political party in office, we remain steadfast in our mission to build an equitable, high-quality health care system in the movement to end homelessness. As a nonpartisan organization, we do not align with any political party. We will vigorously advocate for policies that support our mission and our community, and equally oppose any policy that undermines our goals or threatens the well-being of the people we serve. While we broadly support many issues in coalition with our national partners, this document outlines the focus areas for our policy and advocacy work.

All of our work is directly informed by people with the lived experience of homelessness and the health care providers who care for them.



Preserve Medicaid: Medicaid provides comprehensive health insurance to 55% of all patients receiving care at HCH programs and is also an important funding source for health centers and medical respite care programs. Medicaid lowers overall system costs, improves health, and increases quality of life. *Examples of our advocacy include...*

- **Protecting Medicaid** as a vital safety net program, and oppose block grants, reduced reimbursements, or other changes that reduce support for the program
- **Safeguarding current 1115 waivers** authorizing medical respite care, supportive services in housing, and other service expansions that address health-related social needs
- **Opposing government inefficiencies** that limit access to care such as Medicaid work requirements, barriers to enrollment, and other wasteful policies



Defend Access to Substance Use Treatment: An integrated care model that provides comprehensive, coordinated treatment for behavioral health conditions (including mental health and opioid use disorder) is essential to addressing deadly cycles of incarceration, poverty, poor health, and continued homelessness. *Examples of our advocacy include...*

- **Protecting harm reduction programs** such as syringe services programs, street medicine, overdose prevention sites, and other approaches that mitigate risks
- **Expanding access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)** to help individuals recover without stigma or barriers to care
- **Opposing drug testing requirements** in order to receive public benefits
- **Supporting Housing First policies** that provide health care services and do not require sobriety or treatment to access housing



Protect the Health and Rights of Unhoused People: Encampment sweeps, fines or arrests cause harm to unhoused individuals and do nothing to end homelessness. A decent society provides access to basic human needs—including health care services—without stigma, harassment, or threats against patients or providers. *Examples of our advocacy include...*

- **Opposing encampment sweeps, camping bans, and “tent cities,”** as well as any measures that call for punishing individuals simply for being homeless
- **Fighting local discriminatory laws** such as Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) and Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP), which further criminalize homelessness and/or drug use or limit the availability of health care services
- **Promoting access to integrated care in a broad range of venues** such as health centers, medical respite care, supportive housing, and street outreach/medicine